(b) the details of persons nominated in these institutions and the criteria adopted therefor;

(c) whether any person from Gujarat has ever been nominated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Distribution of Drought Relief Funds

1074. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought relief funds were inappropriately distributed to States during the recent drought situation;

(b) whether the highest relief amount was granted to Gujarat, which faced the drought in the initial stages of summer this year, but had an averagely good monsoon later on; and

(c) if so, whether Government intend to constitute a task force under the Disaster Relief Management, that would study any crises situation in all the States on ground level before the Centre allocates its relief funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Distribution of Relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. No memorandum has been received from the Government of Gujarat for assistance in the wake of drought and no amount has been released for the purpose. A task Force on drought Management, headed by Deputy Prime Minister, has already been constituted for taking policy decisions.

CACP Recommendations

1075. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations of the Commission on Agricultural Costs & Prices, submitted to Government in September, 2002 their revenue implications and the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations tend to benefit the rich farmers only, with little relief to drought-affected marginal and small farmers; and

(c) the relief provided to each segment of the rich, marginal and small farmers of the farming community affected by natural calamities during the last three years, region-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In its supplementary note on Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has made the following recommendations:

(i) The minimum support prices (MSP) of various kharif crops be fixed as recommended in the original report submitted on 15.05.2002. However, in order to compensate the farmers for the losses of kharif crops in unirrigated areas and for the additional costs incurred on irrigation, mainly on account of increased diesel consumption and labour, one time bonus, over and above the MSP be given as under:

Crop/Commodity	Variety	Recommended one time bonus (Rs./quintal)
Paddy	Common	20
	Grade A	20
Jowar		5
Bajra		10
Maize		5
Ragi		5
Tur (Arhar)		5
Moong		5
Urad		5
Groundnut-in shell		20
Soyabean		
(Yellow)		10
(Black)		10
Sunflower seed		15
Sesamum		5
Cotton	F-414/H-777/	20
(Kapas)	J-34 H-4	20

(ii) Activise the Public Distribution System (PDS) and supply foodgrains to all farmers and farm labourers at subsidized rates in all the drought affected areas. Not only the distinction between Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) prices be removed, but also the Central Issue prices of grains be lowered by Rs. 100 per quintal than the existing BPL prices.

(iii) Implement food for work programme vigorously for providing adequate employment to all those who offer labour for foodgrains.

(iv) Waive interest on all loans taken by farmers during the current year in affected areas.

(v) Strengthen institutional credit facility to enable the farmers in affected areas to cultivate land properly in the rabi season.

(vi) Supply minikits of quality seeds free of charge to all farmers in the rabi season.

(vii) Restore fertilizer subsidy to the pre-budget level and ensure adequate supply of subsidized fertilizer to all farmers growing crops in the forthcoming rabi season.

The financial implications of these recommendations are estimated to be Rs. 3535 crores. The Government has already announced the payment of the special drought relief prices for kharif crops of 2002-03 season. The special drought relief prices range between Rs. 5/- to Rs. 20/- per quintal and are payable over and above the minimum support price. The remaining recommendations of the CACP are under consideration of the Government.

(b) The recommendations are intended to help all categories of farmers all over the country.

(c) As per extant norms of expenditure for assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for natural calamities, assistance for agricultural input subsidy is admissible to small & marginal farmers only for damage to crops 50% or above. State-wise release of funds under CRF & NCCF for natural calamities during the last three years, are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 197, Annexure No. II].

Revamping of HFCL and FCIL

1076. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the unanimous resolution of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals, the Ministry of Chemicals and